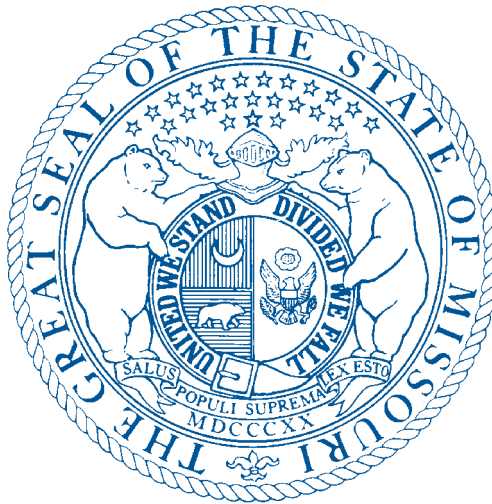


# **The Missouri Budget and Legislative Priorities Fiscal Year 2011**



**Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon**  
**Governor**



JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI  
JEFFERSON CITY

65102

January 20, 2010

P.O. Box 720  
(573) 751-3222

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI:

The national and international economic crisis has led to very challenging times for Missourians. Although Missouri's unemployment rate has remained below the national average, it is still too high. Too many Missourians have lost jobs or are working fewer hours than before. These extraordinary economic challenges have led to declining revenues for state services. We have responded to this revenue shortfall by cutting costs, reducing the number of state employees, and making government leaner and more efficient.

I worked with the legislature last session to pass a budget that was balanced. Unfortunately, the national economic situation continued to deteriorate and revenue collections were below expectations, so I made additional spending cuts to ensure the budget stayed balanced. By carefully managing the budget situation, we have maintained Missouri's Triple-A credit rating from all three rating agencies; we are one of only seven states with that distinction. In fact, Moody's Investors Service named Missouri one of the top states positioned to lead the recovery.

Because it will take time for the state's revenue collections to rebound, the Fiscal Year 2011 budget will be austere. In order to balance the budget, my recommendations include the elimination of an additional 550 state positions, bringing the total reduction to nearly 1,800 since I took office. In addition, my budget will continue to reduce the administrative costs of state government – including leasing, utility, and contract costs. My budget proposals also include a thorough review of health care services to reduce taxpayer costs for both the Medicaid Program and state employees' health care coverage.

By balancing our budget without a tax increase, we are well positioned to move Missouri's economy forward. By focusing our limited resources on key areas – job creation, education, and health care – my Fiscal Year 2011 Budget will:

- Create an investment fund for one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy – science and technology to help attract and grow innovative, high-tech businesses;
- Increase funding for the Missouri Customized Training Program;
- Provide a record level of funding for K-12 classrooms through the Foundation Formula;
- Guarantee no tuition increases at Missouri's public colleges and universities; and
- Provide medically necessary, evidence-based therapies to children with autism who are served by the state Medicaid Program and state employee health care plan.

By continuing to work with the legislature in a bi-partisan fashion, we will enact a budget for Fiscal Year 2011 that builds upon our success of keeping the budget balanced, maintains our record of sound fiscal management, and invests in key areas to help move Missouri forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor



## *The Missouri Budget and Legislative Priorities Table of Contents*

Accomplishments	1
Leadership/Efficiency/Accountability	3
Economy	9
Education	13
Health Care Delivery/Autism	17
State Parks/Agriculture	19
DWI Reform	21

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# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Governor Nixon took the oath of office in January 2009 and immediately began working to move Missouri forward. He worked with legislators from both sides of the aisle to balance the state’s budget, turn our economy around, and promote a quality, affordable education for Missouri students. Under Governor Nixon’s leadership, Missouri is well positioned to accelerate out of this economic downturn and lead the nation’s recovery.

- January 2009
- Created Auto Jobs Task Force and Economic Stimulus Coordination Council to generate economic recovery ideas
  - Worked with higher education leaders to freeze tuition for students attending public higher education institutions
  - Established a small-business loan program
  - Deployed National Guard and state emergency personnel to respond to Southern Missouri ice storm



- March 2009
- Provided \$1 million for advertising to jump-start tourism season
  - Established transparency system for federal recovery dollars
  - Announced 120 new jobs at Smith Electric Vehicles in Kansas City



- May 2009
- Praised bipartisan efforts on the final day of legislative session
  - Launched *Caring for Missourians* to expand access to health care training programs
  - Signed “Kaitlyn’s Law” for students with special needs
  - Coordinated response to severe weather in Southwest and Northeast Missouri



- February 2009
- Kicked off construction at one of the first economic recovery initiatives in the nation
  - Created the Transform Missouri Initiative to maximize the benefit of federal recovery activities



- April 2009
- Joined 7 Midwestern governors in support of a high-speed rail project
  - Launched the Missouri Next-Generation Jobs Team
  - Ordered 20 percent reduction in energy usage by state agencies over the next 10 years
  - Promoted administration’s Operation Bark Alert efforts



- June 2009
- Signed bipartisan jobs bill into law, providing critical resources to create jobs and train workers
  - Eliminated the franchise tax for over 16,000 small businesses
  - Extended unemployment benefits for Missourians
  - Finalized agreement to bring Chiefs’ training camp to St. Joseph

“To overcome the challenges we face, we must put politics second and put Missouri first.”

Governor Jay Nixon



- July 2009
- Permanently eliminated patronage from motor vehicle license offices
  - Provided protections for Missourians from sudden home foreclosures during difficult economic times
  - Visited Missouri troops in Iraq and Afghanistan
  - Approved legislation to encourage energy efficiency and save utility customers money



- September 2009
- Issued an Executive Order creating the Governor’s Faith-Based Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery
  - Held business roundtable with leaders across the state
  - Created the Prompt Pay for a Healthy Missouri Project



- November 2009
- Convened a DWI reform summit
  - Provided cutting-edge software training to 25,000 Missourians
  - Announced major clean water initiative
  - Secured college tuition freeze for a second year



- August 2009
- Announced plan for autism insurance coverage reform
  - Announced first small businesses awarded low-interest loans through the Governor’s Missouri Small Business Loan Program



- October 2009
- Announced initiative to boost tourism at state parks
  - Signed major agricultural trade agreement
  - Hosted FEMA administrator for disaster recovery roundtable with faith leaders
  - Created advisory panel to recommend policies to jump-start housing construction and promote energy efficiency



- December 2009
- Outlined DWI reform priorities with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)
  - Unveiled 2010 jobs package that includes *Training for Tomorrow*; the *Missouri Science and Innovation Reinvestment Act*; and *Missouri First*
  - Implemented a property tax relief program for new homeowners
  - Announced retention of Missouri’s AAA bond rating status

## LEADERSHIP

*“Missourians expect and deserve a government that is transparent, accountable and responsive.”*

### Governor Jay Nixon

In Governor Nixon’s first year in office, he has faced historic economic challenges. State revenue collections in Fiscal Year 2009 were down more than \$778 million from what had originally been projected – the largest drop ever. This was nearly 7 percent below actual revenue collected for the previous fiscal year. Governor Nixon took action to balance the budget without increasing taxes by:

- Cutting \$600 million from the budget while protecting priorities like education, health care and public safety.
- Eliminating nearly 1,800 positions from the state workforce.
- Making government more efficient through technology and putting more services online.
- Securing savings by renegotiating state contracts and leases.
- Reducing state government energy consumption.



September 2009 - Governor Nixon met with business leaders about issues facing Missouri’s economy

### Sound Fiscal Management

Early, decisive action by Governor Nixon headed off the financial meltdowns other states have experienced. Missouri also avoided tax increases and drastic cuts in basic services. Fiscally conservative management helped Missouri keep its spotless, Triple-A credit rating. In October 2009, Moody’s Investors Service named Missouri one of the top states positioned to lead the recovery.

Even though Missouri is in better shape than many other states, it still faces tough budget challenges. Revenue collections for the current fiscal year are anticipated to be 6.4 percent below last year. For Fiscal Year 2011, revenue collections will remain tight. Additional cuts and fiscal

## LEADERSHIP

restraint will be necessary to keep the Missouri budget balanced and the state moving forward. For Fiscal Year 2011, Governor Nixon has worked hard to keep the budget in line, while providing the efficient, effective and responsive government Missourians expect and deserve.

### Increasing Government Efficiency

The Fiscal Year 2011 budget reflects efforts to streamline government services to ensure efficiency and cost savings. These actions are necessary to preserve scarce revenues for the most vital services including education, health care and public safety. In addition, the administration has reviewed state agency staffing and expenses, resulting in significant savings.

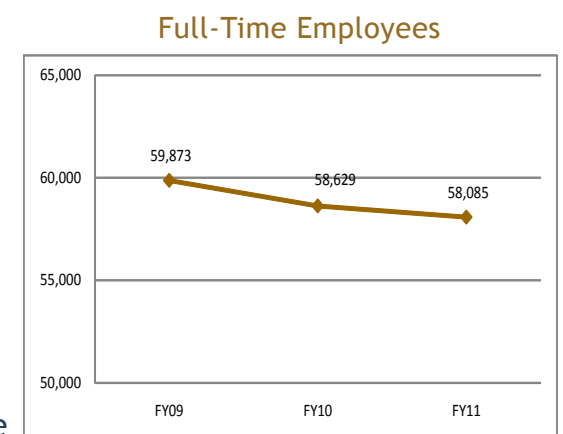
#### State Workforce Reductions

The state workforce will be reduced by an additional 550 positions in Fiscal Year 2011, bringing the total reduction to nearly 1,800 positions since the Governor took office.

#### State Services Consolidation and Improvement

Governor Nixon instructed every department to reduce costs while preserving vital services for Missourians. These efforts include:

- Promoting energy efficiency – reduced energy use in state buildings through operational improvements, equipment retrofits and other measures as directed by the Governor’s Executive Order 09-18.
- Consolidating programs – combined state agency functions to reduce costs and increase efficiency. The Department of Natural Resources merged the Field Services Division into the existing Division of Environmental Quality. The Division of Youth Services regionalized bill payment processes and maintenance functions. The Department of Social Services will transfer its mail services to the existing mail operation of the Office of Administration. The Department of Mental Health’s Social Rehabilitation Unit will be transferred to the Department of Corrections to improve operations and services.
- Refocusing revenue efforts – reviewed operations at the Department of Revenue to enhance revenue collection efforts, which will generate millions in additional revenues.
- Reducing facility costs – negotiated expiring leases, reduced rates, downsized leased facilities and consolidated staff in state-owned buildings, reducing the leasing budget.





## EFFICIENCY

### Improving Program Efficiency

Under Governor Nixon's leadership, a careful review of state programs is well underway. Several key examples are outlined below.

#### **Medicaid**

Due to the economic downturn, unemployment has increased Medicaid caseloads, requiring additional resources at a time when state revenues are stagnant. Governor Nixon's administration has worked with program providers and health care specialists to lower costs and improve client outcomes. Through these efforts, \$121 million in general revenue will be saved without changing eligibility or eliminating services. These efforts have focused on several key initiatives, across all services and provider types including:

- Focusing on high-cost users — better management of high-cost clients will reduce costs and lead to better health outcomes.
- Improving coordination of benefits with other insurers — costs for clients who are also eligible for other insurance coverage will be paid by those insurers.
- Enhancing service review — Missouri will improve its review of services. Precertification of imaging services will be required; a third party contractor will perform the intake and assessment of clients for long-term care services; use of telephony will ensure home and community-based services are appropriately paid; and better management of psychotropic prescriptions will be achieved through clinical review.
- Ensuring provider rates are efficient — some Medicaid rates in Missouri are higher than Medicare rates or higher than typical rates paid by private insurers. Provider rates in these very limited areas will be reduced. In addition, changes will be made to improve the efficiency of payments to managed care plans.

#### **State Employee Health Care**

The Governor is working with the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan Board of Trustees (MCHCP) to improve administration of the health care plan that provides benefits to 57,000 state employees and retirees. MCHCP will better coordinate the delivery of existing services, saving \$6.5 million in general revenue. Future initiatives will ensure that health care for state employees remains affordable for Missouri taxpayers.



April 2009 - Governor Nixon directed state agencies to make government more energy efficient by reducing energy use at least 2 percent a year for the next 10 years

## EFFICIENCY

#### **Child Support Collection Administration**

The state is federally mandated to provide child support services to qualifying low-income families. Currently, higher-income families can receive these services at little or no cost. To ensure services are provided to those who need them most, the Governor proposes legislation to encourage those who can afford it to use their own resources. Additional proposals will improve efficiencies and redirect resources to increase support owed to Missouri children by requiring certain employers to remit support payments electronically and stopping automatic payments when no longer due.

#### **County Offices**

Current law requires the Department of Social Services' Children's Division and Family Support Division to have an office in each of the 114 counties and the City of St. Louis. Consolidating functions among counties, combined with other community resources, will ensure services are accessible while saving money for taxpayers.

### Eliminating Obsolete Boards and Commissions

For years, governors of both parties have handed out appointments to one of the state's 250 boards and commissions. Some of these boards do good, productive work. Others spend taxpayer dollars and don't produce enough results to justify their continued existence. Over the past year, Governor Nixon's administration reviewed every state board and commission. The review found one commission that hadn't met in 10 years and many others that have outlived their usefulness. Governor Nixon has already issued executive orders eliminating 13 of these entities and 227 appointed positions. The Governor's review found numerous other boards, established in state statute, which merit elimination; he will work with the General Assembly to remove these obsolete groups and streamline state government. In total, the Governor proposes eliminating 31 boards or commissions and 473 appointments.

# ACCOUNTABILITY



January 2009 - Governor Jay Nixon took the oath of office as Missouri's 55th Governor

## Ethics Reform

Throughout his career in public service, Governor Nixon has been a strong proponent of transparent and accountable government. To strengthen the credibility of Missouri's elected officials and the confidence of those they serve, Governor Nixon proposes meaningful and comprehensive ethics reform for Missouri's elected officials. Reforms should contain four key elements:

- Enacting strict campaign contribution limits, as mandated by 74 percent of Missouri voters through a ballot initiative in 1994 and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Eliminating committee-to-committee transfers, which undermine transparency and weaken contribution limits.
- Prohibiting officeholders from taking money under the guise of "political consulting," political advice or similar services, during their time in office and for a reasonable period after leaving office.
- Closing the revolving door between the legislature and lobbying, by prohibiting legislators from serving as registered lobbyists of the legislative branch for a reasonable period after they leave office.

# ACCOUNTABILITY

## License Office Reform

In 2009, Governor Nixon changed the way Missouri manages local motor vehicle license offices by ending an outdated system of political patronage. These offices are now awarded through a competitive and open bidding process, which ensures Missouri taxpayers receive the most efficient and effective service. Last year, the state's 183 motor vehicle license offices agreed to return more than \$800,000 to the state. Governor Nixon proposes reinvesting these savings in programs such as:

- The Veteran's Survivors Grant Program, to provide higher education grants to spouses or children of Missouri veterans who died or became disabled as a result of injuries or accidents sustained in combat action after September 11, 2001.
- The Line of Duty Compensation Program, to provide a one-time compensation payment to the survivors of emergency workers killed in the line of duty. This program was established by House Bill 580 and signed by the Governor in June 2009.



June 2009 - Governor Nixon signed House Bill 580 at the Kansas City Fire Department Station #19



July 2009 - Governor Nixon with the Missouri National Guard's Agri-Business Development Team in Afghanistan



## ECONOMY



November 2009 - Governor Nixon visited a construction site in Greene County

Governor Nixon's top priority is to turn Missouri's economy around. Under Governor Nixon's leadership, Missouri has cut taxes for small businesses and military veterans; passed a jobs bill to spark business growth and job-creation; and laid a foundation for economic recovery. Last fall, the Governor toured the state to hear directly from local Missouri businesses, both large and small, about their needs, their aspirations and their challenges. The feedback from that tour formed the framework of the Governor's 2010 Jobs Plan, focusing on growing our most loyal businesses, expanding job training and investing in science and technology.

### 2010 Jobs Plan

Governor Nixon believes Missouri is positioned to lead the nation's economic recovery. His 2010 Jobs Plan is a comprehensive legislative proposal designed to get Missourians back to work, educate Missourians for the careers of tomorrow and capitalize innovation and technology. The plan will:

- Refocus economic incentives to help existing Missouri businesses grow.
- Create a reinvestment fund to attract the best and brightest researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs in emerging technology fields to Missouri.
- Establish a pool of funds to train hundreds of workers in high-demand fields.



December 2009 - Governor Nixon tours BRDG Park in Creve Coeur

## ECONOMY

**“One of my top responsibilities as Governor is to bring people together to focus on the economic growth and development of Missouri. It's a job that requires cooperation, collaboration and a healthy spirit of competition.”**

*Governor Jay Nixon*

### Missouri First

While Missouri must be relentless in competing to bring new business and investment to the state, Governor Nixon believes we must do more to help our most loyal companies grow and create jobs. Currently, Missouri's economic tools make no distinction between a long-time Missouri employer and an out-of-state company considering relocation. In fact, some out-of-state businesses could even be eligible for larger overall incentives than existing Missouri businesses because of additional economic tools that are available to help companies relocate to the state. Acknowledging and rewarding the loyalty of existing Missouri employers is of paramount importance for economic growth. Governor Nixon's Missouri First initiative will retool the state's economic incentive programs to provide enhanced incentives to companies that are already located in the Show-Me State and considering expansion.

Specifically, for businesses that have had a presence in Missouri for at least five years, the state will reward the loyalty of these companies by increasing existing incentives by up to 2 percent for each 5-year increment the company has been located in Missouri - up to 10 percent for companies that have been in Missouri for 25 years or more. Missouri First will apply to 9 state capital investment, economic incentive and training programs. While this initiative will provide additional resources to existing Missouri businesses, it will not increase the overall size or cost of these economic development programs.



January 2010 - Governor Nixon detailed the Missouri First initiative during a tour at Boeing Corporation in St. Louis



## ECONOMY



June 2009 - Dr. James Brennan talks with Governor Nixon during a tour of the St. Louis Community College Allied Health Programs, Forest Park Campus

### Missouri Science and Innovation Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA)

One of the fastest-growing sectors of Missouri's economy is science and technology. Governor Nixon's MOSIRA initiative will capitalize on the growth of our existing science and technology companies to spark economic growth in these essential, next-generation sectors.

The initiative will create stable, ongoing funding to foster high-tech scientific and research jobs to the state. The monies will be transferred into the Missouri Technology Investment Fund, which will be administered by the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC). The MTC will reinvest the MOSIRA funding to create jobs in biotechnology and life sciences. Funding will be invested in a wide range of programs designed to:

- Attract top science talent to Missouri.
- Commercialize scientific research to create new Missouri-based technology companies.
- Recruit and build strategic science infrastructure.
- Increase access to risk capital for early-stage technology companies created in, or recruited to, Missouri.
- Increase technology-focused entrepreneurial activity in Missouri.
- Establish highly focused workplace development initiatives.

## ECONOMY

### Training for Tomorrow

To turn the economy around, more Missourians need access to training programs in high-tech, high-demand fields. Especially in growing industries like health care, technical training beyond high school is essential; however, many community colleges simply don't have the equipment, instructors or resources to meet the demand of Missouri's workers. The Training for Tomorrow initiative will educate Missourians in high-tech fields and get them working in growing industries – quickly. Across the state, \$12 million in grants will help Missouri community colleges create or expand training programs to serve additional students for such careers as pharmacy technicians, nursing aides and skilled craftsmen.



December 2009 - Governor Nixon announces Training for Tomorrow in Moberly

### Creating Construction Jobs

In December 2009, the Missouri Housing and Development Commission approved a proposal by Governor Nixon and State Treasurer Clint Zweifel to provide property tax relief to Missouri home buyers. This initiative is expected to provide property tax relief for 9,000 to 11,000 Missouri families. Eligible Missouri families will receive an incentive equal to their first year's estimated property tax, up to \$1,250, with additional \$500 incentives for energy-efficiency upgrades. This program is designed to help Missouri families achieve the American Dream and get construction workers back on the job.



January 2010 - Governor Nixon and State Treasurer Clint Zweifel joined craftsmen at the Nelson-Mulligan Carpenters' Training Center to kick off the Home Ownership Purchase Enhancement (HOPE) Program

## EDUCATION



March 2009 - First Lady Georganne Wheeler Nixon visited Moreau Heights Elementary School in Jefferson City

### Record Funding for Elementary & Secondary Education

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2011 budget provides increased funding — at record levels — for the state's public elementary and secondary classrooms for the second year in a row. This year, \$5.4 billion will support the state's 522 school districts and 35 charter schools, including an \$18 million increase for schools compared with last year's budget. Governor Nixon will continue to make funding for public education a top priority.

Governor Nixon knows the value of a quality public education and is committed to maintaining state support for Missouri's public schools. The Governor also recognizes that education beyond the senior year of high school is critical to prepare Missourians to compete for 21st-Century jobs.

### 2010 Education Priorities

Governor Nixon is committed to investing in public elementary and secondary education and making higher education more affordable for Missouri families. The Governor's budget and legislative priorities include:

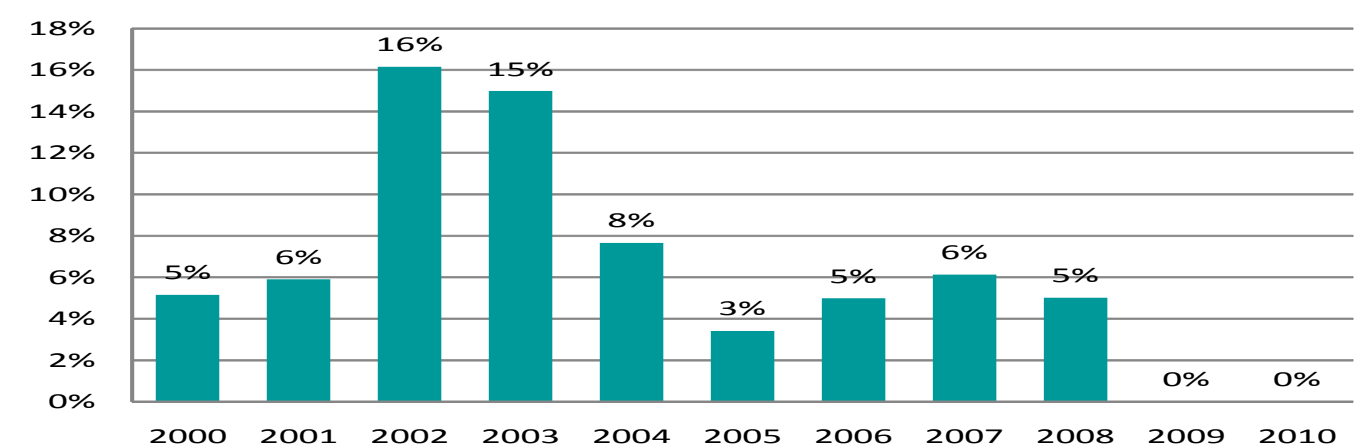
- Record funding for Missouri's public elementary and secondary classrooms.
- Freezing college tuition for the second year in a row so that more families can afford a higher education.
- Establishing the Missouri Promise to create a pathway to a four-year degree for more Missouri students.

## EDUCATION

*"Education is the key to our future. From pre-school to college, we must prepare every child to compete. And we must make the dream of a college education a reality for more Missouri families."*

Governor Jay Nixon

Average Yearly Tuition and Fees at Public Four-Year Institutions  
% Increase Over Previous Year



November 2009 - Governor Nixon announced historic agreement to freeze tuition for second year in a row at University of Missouri - St. Louis

### Higher Education Tuition Freeze

Attracting new employers and growing small businesses starts with developing an educated and qualified workforce. To make that happen, Governor Nixon believes we must make higher education more accessible and affordable. Despite historic economic challenges, Governor Nixon reached an agreement with all of Missouri's public, two-year and four-year colleges and universities to freeze tuition for the 2010 -2011 school year. When approved, for the second year in a row, in-state, undergraduate students at all of Missouri's public colleges and universities will see no increase in tuition or fees.



EDUCATION

Governor Nixon knows it is vital to keep higher education affordable and accessible. Prior to last year’s tuition freeze, tuition at Missouri’s public colleges and universities increased by an average of 7.5 percent a year for the past 10 years, making it increasingly difficult for many families to afford a post-secondary education for their children. Across the nation, tuition continues to skyrocket - by an average of 6.5 percent at public colleges and universities last year. The University of California’s Board of Regents approved a 32 percent increase in undergraduate tuition during the 2010 and 2011 school years. Missouri led the nation in protecting students from tuition increases thanks to the tuition freeze secured by the Governor.

Missouri Promise Program

In many of today’s high-demand fields, a four-year college degree is vital. Governor Nixon is committed to creating a pathway to a debt-free four-year degree for Missouri students. Over the past 16 years, Missouri’s successful A+ Scholarship Program has provided two years of study – tuition free – for eligible students at Missouri community colleges.

Currently, the benefits of the A+ Program are available to students who attend one of 274 high schools, or about half the public high schools, around the state. That means approximately one-third of Missouri’s public high school students can’t even apply for an A+ scholarship because their schools aren’t officially designated as A+ schools. A+ scholarships should be open to students at every public high school in the state, and Governor Nixon’s Missouri Promise will make sure that happens.



July 2009 - Governor Nixon signed House Bill 506 in Rolla, designating an annual Math, Engineering, Technology and Science Week

EDUCATION

Through Missouri Promise, Governor Nixon proposes:

- Expanding the A+ Scholarship Program to all public high school students, allowing students at the remaining 266 high schools to participate in the A+ Program.
- Extending the current A+ Program to include the third and fourth years at a four-year public university to allow middle-class and low-income public school students to get free tuition for an additional two years. The program will be available to students whose families have an adjusted gross income of approximately \$72,000.
- Enabling an additional 8,000 students to participate in the A+ Program and more than 7,000 students to continue their studies at a four-year institution when Missouri Promise is fully implemented.

Missouri Promise Program  
Projected Student Benefits

Student Benefit	Current	Fully Implemented
Number of public high schools eligible to participate in A+ and Missouri Promise	274	540
Number of students attending years 1 and 2 at a community college under A+ and Missouri Promise	10,186	18,210
Number of students attending years 3 and 4 at a public four-year university under the Missouri Promise	0	7,041
Total number of students attending a college or university under A+ and Missouri Promise	10,186	25,251

## HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

*“I am committed to improving the delivery of health care to Missourians and bringing our health care information systems into the 21st Century.”*

Governor Jay Nixon

Over the past year, Governor Nixon has worked to improve the delivery of health care to Missourians through technology, efficiency and expanded training.

### MO-HITECH

The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act to enhance health care delivery through technology. By Executive Order, Governor Nixon created the Missouri Office of Health Information Technology to direct the state’s efforts in making health care information more accessible, reducing medical errors, lowering administrative costs and protecting patient privacy.

### Caring for Missourians

At a time of high unemployment, one industry continues to hire in record numbers: health care. Governor Nixon’s Caring for Missourians program will give hundreds of Missourians the training they need to meet critical health care industry needs. Beginning July 1, 2009, each public college and university received a grant to develop a specific plan for expanding the capacity of its health care programs. In the years to come, hundreds of future medical professionals will receive training at Missouri’s two- and four-year institutions because of Caring for Missourians.



October 2009 - Governor Nixon details Caring for Missourians with University of Missouri - St. Louis College of Optometry students

## AUTISM

*“As a state, we must make sure that children with autism have access to life-changing therapies that will help them grow and achieve their full potential.”*

Governor Jay Nixon



February 2009 - Governor Nixon visited the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders at the University of Missouri-Columbia

According to a 2009 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Autism Spectrum Disorders are now diagnosed in approximately one in 110 births in America. Research shows that early intervention has a dramatic and permanent impact on reducing the symptoms of autism spectrum disorders. However, a growing number of Missouri families cannot afford the necessary treatment for their children.

Governor Nixon has called for bold action to make sure that families have access to the diagnosis and treatment services they need. Earlier this year, Governor Nixon outlined principles for an autism-coverage bill that will make a real difference for Missouri families. Joined by legislators from both parties, Governor Nixon has called for an autism bill that ensures the following:

- Health insurance carriers that issue or renew health benefit plans on or after January 1, 2011, must provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- Coverage must expressly include medically necessary, evidence-based Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy, subject to a reasonable annual limit.
- Coverage must have no limit on the number of visits by an individual to an autism service provider for Applied Behavioral Analysis or for any other autism-related services.
- Carriers must not refuse to renew, refuse to reissue or otherwise terminate or restrict coverage on an individual or their dependent solely because the individual is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.



## STATE PARKS & CONSERVATION

*“Hunting, fishing, hiking and camping are part of our Missouri way of life.”*

Governor Jay Nixon



In June 2009, Governor Nixon announced the partial reopening of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park near Middlebrook, Missouri

Governor Nixon knows the value of Missouri's natural resources and is a champion of our network of state parks. Missouri's parks showcase the state's rich diversity of landscapes, ecosystems and cultural landmarks — from canyons to caves, waterways to woodlands and Civil War battlefields to artists' homes.

### Missouri State Parks Youth Corps

Governor Nixon has proposed the creation of the Missouri State Parks Youth Corps to help Missouri youth make a difference by helping preserve and enhance the state's resources, while learning the value of personal responsibility, hard work and conservation. This new program will give youth summer employment, job skills and an opportunity to perform public service. Youth will be involved in a variety of work activities at state parks, including: improving camp sites, maintaining trails, and restoring habitat. This program

will be funded through a partnership between the Division of State Parks, the Division of Workforce Development and the state's 14 local workforce investment boards.

### Boosting State Park Attendance

Missouri is the custodian of 85 state parks and historic sites. Since 1984, state parks have been supported by a dedicated sales tax. While Missourians' support for their state parks remains strong, there has been a sharp — almost 20 percent — decline in attendance over the past decade. Governor Nixon is committed to promoting Missouri's state parks. Increasing attendance at Missouri state parks will preserve the state's heritage and provide a convenient option for families seeking a great value in recreation. It also will benefit Missouri's tourism industry.

### Clean Water Legislation

Governor Nixon has proposed legislation to improve water quality across the state by giving the Missouri Clean Water Commission authority to prevent new pollutants from flowing into distressed lakes and rivers. The Commission and the Department of Natural Resources will have the authority to limit permits and inspect and bring enforcement actions against a broader range of facilities when the water is under serious stress.

*“Missouri cannot move forward unless agriculture moves forward.”*

Governor Jay Nixon

## AGRICULTURE



Governor Nixon is committed to expanding markets for Missouri agricultural products here at home and around the world. In addition to expanding international export opportunities for Missouri farmers, Governor Nixon believes more Missourians should have access to fresh, healthy home-grown produce through farmers' markets and community gardens. The Governor's budget and legislative priorities include expansion of local farmers' markets and community gardens, and full funding for production of renewable fuels.

### Expanding Access to Locally Grown Food

Farmers' markets and community gardens are popping up in many cities across the country, especially in urban areas. In fact, the number of farmers' markets around the state has more than tripled over the last decade. These local initiatives provide health benefits as well as economic, social, cultural and educational opportunities, and consumer demand for fresh, local farm and community products is high. Governor Nixon supports expanding opportunities to promote and sell fresh Missouri-grown produce. The Governor proposes establishing Certified Missouri Local Foods, Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices programs to ensure Missouri goods are produced using safe and healthy means. The Governor's budget includes \$720,000 to support these new programs, expand the number of community garden demonstration projects and increase grants to local farmers' markets.



August 2009 - Governor Nixon toured the Growing Together Community Garden at the Department of Agriculture headquarters in Jefferson City

### Supporting Missouri-Produced Renewable Fuels

Ethanol and biofuels are domestically produced from renewable sources, such as corn and soybean oil. Assistance in the production of these fuels benefits the state's agricultural economy and Missouri farmers. To continue production and use of alternative fuels, Governor Nixon recommends a \$9 million increase to expand biodiesel fuel production. In addition, the Governor already has secured \$9.4 million in ongoing support for full production at Missouri's four ethanol plants.

# DWI REFORM

Drunken driving remains a serious problem in Missouri. A comprehensive approach to solve this complex problem must be taken, including changes in state law. Too many repeat offenders are allowed to get behind the wheel of a car and put innocent lives at risk. One of Governor Nixon’s top priorities is to pass legislation to reduce the number of drunken drivers on Missouri roads this year.

## DWI Summit

In November 2009, Governor Nixon convened a DWI summit in Jefferson City with police chiefs, sheriffs, county and municipal prosecutors, judges, court clerks and victims' advocates to share their experiences with Missouri's DWI system and develop suggestions for improvement. The Governor’s goal was to find solutions to close gaps in Missouri's system of identifying, prosecuting and keeping repeat DWI offenders off the road. As a result of this productive summit, the Governor proposes numerous policy changes to crack down on drunken driving in Missouri.

## 2010 DWI Reform

Governor Nixon is committed to working with legislators to pass aggressive reforms to Missouri’s DWI laws. The Governor has called for an overhaul of the way Missouri deals with drunken-driving cases by eliminating loopholes that block prosecutions and ensuring that all DWI offenses are accurately recorded and tracked. Missouri officials at all levels of government have a duty to protect families by improving DWI enforcement, from the traffic stops that initiate cases to the sentences handed out by judges, and even the way offenders’ records are kept.



December 2009 - Governor Nixon, accompanied by law enforcement officers, family members of victims of drunken driving and victims’ advocates announced DWI Reform proposals

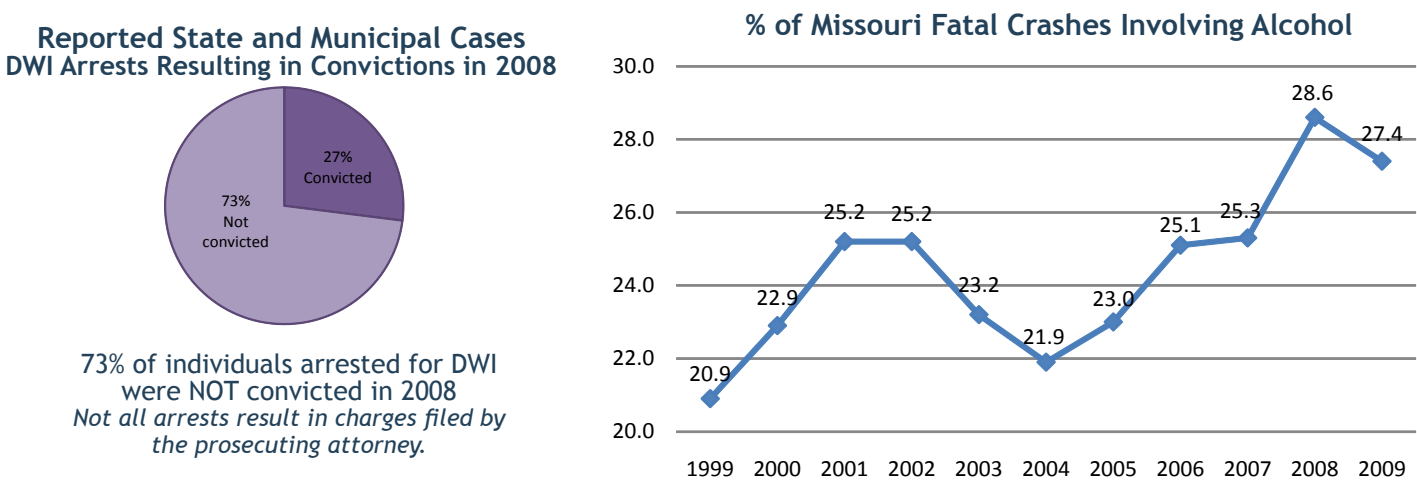
# DWI REFORM

*“The way we handle drunken-driving cases in Missouri is broken. We must take bold and decisive steps to reform the way DWI cases are dealt with.”*

Governor Jay Nixon

Specifically, the Governor and bipartisan legislative leaders have outlined the following key elements for DWI-reform legislation:

- Require repeat DWI offenders, drivers with a blood-alcohol level of .15 or above, and drivers who refuse to submit to a blood-alcohol test to be charged in a state court, as opposed to a municipal court, to ensure that the most rigorous standards are applied in bringing offenders to justice and tracking cases to avoid repeat offenses.
- Create enhanced penalties for offenders with blood-alcohol levels of .15 and above. (Under Missouri law .08 is the presumed level of intoxication.)
- Make it a crime for any driver to refuse to submit to a blood-alcohol test.
- Expand the use of ignition-interlock devices to include cases when the driver's blood-alcohol level was .15 or above or when a driver refuses to submit to a blood-alcohol test. Current law limits the required use of these devices to repeat offenders.
- Eliminate the provision under current law that allows DWI offenders to have their records expunged after 10 years without another offense.
- Require all jurisdictions to enter DWI arrest and case information into the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Driving While Intoxicated Tracking System to strengthen the tracking of DWI offenders.
- Prohibit a defendant from withdrawing a guilty plea for DWI when reaching the end of his probation under a suspended imposition of sentence.







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